

FORMING A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ALL PUBLIC COMPANIES.

[PRICE 6D.]

[illegible]

FLUVIAL DEPOSIT IN THE VALLEY OF THE REA.

In the course of the formation of a junction between the Warwick and Birmingham Canals, from the Fenny Canal, at Salford Bridge, to the Warwick Canal near the Camp Hill, Leam, while excavating that part of the line which passes through the valley of the Rea, near the village of Hatfield, one mile and a half north-east of Birmingham, the workmen, at a depth varying from four to six feet, came to a deposit of carbonaceous matter, consisting of a compact earthy peat, embedding branches and trunks of trees, in a prostrate position, chiefly oak, hazel, and willow; some of the former from six to eight feet in length. The bed usually rests upon a dark coloured gravel, which owes its colour to the presence of vegetable matter. The majority of the pebbles in the gravel are evidently from the lower beds of the quarries sandstone of the Lickey Hill, but there is a rather remarkable preponderance of very white, and often crystalline, quartz boulders, which gives the dark gravel a singular appearance in a newly made section. At the base of the vegetable stratum, and immediately on this gravel, there is usually a gritty deposit, formed almost exclusively of angular grains of the white quartz; and pebbles of the same are sparingly scattered through the peaty mass. A few chalk flints are also found in the gravel, and fragments of debris from the neighbouring coal field. But the bed in which the drift coal is found is much more recent than the marl on which it is deposited; in one of the upper layers were found the sole of a shoe, and pieces of leather, pierced for a lace or shoe-string. This coal drift may be traced from the spot shown in the section across the valley, to near Nechells, where a good section of it may be seen; it appears to have resulted from some great flood, possibly within the last century, which swept through the valley, carrying off coal and other materials from the yards of the manufacturing and houses, as it passed through Deritend and the lower part of Digbeth. The carbonaceous stratum is not uniformly deposited over the black gravel; it appears to occupy isolated patches, often in small basins; and is the quantity accumulated greater near the present course of the river; it probably arose, partly from some spots of the ancient surface being more densely covered with vegetation than others, and partly from plants having been accumulated in the lowest levels, by the drifting of currents of water. But one instance has been noticed in this deposit of a trunk *in situ*, erect, and this was upon the gritty deposit, and the roots of which appeared to penetrate into the gravelly substratum. The gravel and peaty deposit are covered by a stratum of marly clay, varying in thickness from six inches to four feet six inches; often nearly as white as pipe-clay, more frequently a pale pink, with deeply coloured bands, orange, ochre, and brick red; on this, in some places, repose a very thin stratum of gravel, and over this a pale red sand, gradually passing upwards into a spongy vegetable soil. The whole of these deposits resting on the usual drift of the neighbourhood, which covers the new red sandstone formation. In the lower parts of the vegetable stratum abundance of hazel nuts are found, which do not appear to differ in any respect from the common species (*Forbesia aculeata*), now so plentiful in the midland counties; and occasionally acorns and hawthorn berries; and, in sinking through it for a culvert, running nearly parallel with the line of canal, a fine antler of a stag was discovered, at a spot 150 yards from the river. It apparently belonged to a species identical with the existing red deer (*Cervus elaphus*, cf. *Linnaeus*), formerly so abundant in the forests of Great Britain; but now much less common than the smaller species, or fallow deer (the *Cervus dama* of Linnaeus), the horns of which, instead of being round, like those of the stag, are broad and palmated. The length of the fossil antler is one foot seven inches, and the circumference at the base eight and a half inches, while the brow antler measures nine inches in length, and five and half inches in circumference; the horns are broken off at the extremity; when complete, it was probably more than two feet long. Another, and much less perfect, antler of a stag was found on the line near Nechells Green. It had evidently been removed by the carts, from near the spot where the first was found, with other materials to fill up the lower part of the valley, near Nechells. At a spot a little on the other side of the viaduct (erected by the Derby Railway Company) across the valley, while sinking through the black gravel, the horn of an ox was found; it measures one foot eight inches in length, and is nearly a foot in circumference at the base. The horn must have been a very large one, as the fossil is the bony nucleus only, the hard smooth horny sheath being lost, in consequence of which it would be hazardous to attempt to identify it with any of the fossil species described by Cuvier, Wood, or others.

EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCHES IN ELECTRICITY.

On the Electricity Evolved by the Friction of Water and Steam against other Bodies.—The object of the experiments related in this paper is, to trace the source of the electricity which accompanies the issue of steam of high pressure from the vessels in which it is contained. By means of a suitable apparatus, which the author describes and delineates, he found that electricity is never excited by the passage of pure steam, and is manifested only when water is at the same time present; and hence he concludes, that it is altogether the effect of the friction of globules of water against the sides of the issuing, or against the substances opposed to its passage, as the water is rapidly moved onwards by the current of steam. Accordingly it was found to be increased in quantity by increasing the pressure and impelling force of the steam. The immediate effect of this friction was, in all cases, to render the steam or water positive, and the solids, of whatever nature they might be, negative. In certain circumstances, however, as when a wire is placed in the current of steam, at some distance from the orifice whence it has issued, the solid exhibits the positive electricity already acquired by the steam, and of which it is then merely the recipient and the conductor. In like manner, the results may be greatly modified by the shape, the nature, and the temperature of the passages through which the steam is forced. Heat, by preventing the condensation of the steam into water, likewise prevents the evolution of electricity, which again speedily appears by cooling the passages, so as to restore the water which is necessary for the production of that effect. The phenomena of the evolution of electricity in these circumstances is dependent also on the quality of the fluid in motion, more especially in relation to its conducting power. Water will not excite electricity unless it be pure; the addition to it of any soluble salt, or acid, even in minute quantity, is sufficient to destroy this property. The addition of oil of turpentine, on the other hand, occasions the development of electricity of an opposite kind to that which is excited by water; and this the author explains by the particles, or minute globules, of the water having each received a coating of oil in the form of a thin film, so that the friction takes place only between that external film and the solids, along the surface of which the globules are carried. A similar, but a more permanent, effect is produced by the presence of alcohol, which is not, like oil of turpentine, subject to rapid dissipation. Similar results were obtained when a stream of compressed air was substituted for steam in these experiments. When moisture was present, the solid exhibited negative, and the stream of air positive electricity; but when the air was perfectly dry, no electricity of any kind was apparent. The author concludes with an account of some experiments in which dry powders of various kinds were placed in the current of air; the results differed according to the nature of the substance employed, and other circumstances.—*Dr. FARADAY: From Royal Institution.*

History of China, Pictorial and Descriptive. In monthly parts. Dean and Co., London.

This work, which is announced for completion in seven monthly parts, is exceedingly well got up, and, from its beauty, promises to become popular. Indeed, however, as it is the space devoted to a history of China, even admitting the limited information we possess of that country, it can only be looked upon as an introduction, and, as such, is highly deserving of commendation. The plates which illustrate the work are well executed, and render it a pleasing, as well as instructive, companion or introduction to other works treating on the same subject. It is hardly necessary to add that the matter is not of a nature, as far as the publication has yet progressed, to admit of extract which would be of interest to our readers, although we hope, on an early occasion, to be in possession of some interesting information touching on the mineral products of China, which we are given to understand, have already attracted the attention of more than one "barbarian." The low price at which the publication is issued should alone ensure a large sale, not to advert to its merits.

On the Ventilation of the New Gas Works.—Professor Faraday read a paper on this subject at the Royal Institution, on the 15th inst. After some general remarks on the philosophy of lighting apparatuses, lightness, fire, and the component parts of the products given off from oil and gas during combustion, the paper described a mode adopted of ventilating the interior of furnaces, so as to carry off all vapours produced, and prevent the choking of the gas by condensation on it, at the same time preventing any injury to the human system from gases of which, or otherwise. The new process for ventilating the interior of furnaces, and the which the professor's lecture has taken up a paper, was then explained. It consists of a glass cylinder, longer and deeper than the furnace glass, and placed over it, the lower rim being covered with a sheet of zinc; the lower glass, which forms the furnace for these experiments, is tightly closed, except where it communicates with a pipe communicating outside the apartment, and then air is admitted to the space in the second way, below the chimney; but all the water, in a state of vapour, is condensed, and, which is found during combustion, passes to the chimney, downwards between the two cylinders, and is finally conveyed through the tube to the atmosphere. The advantages to be derived from this mode of ventilation, will be appreciated by persons having technical goods exposed for sale in shops, where, which are actually injured by exposure to the gas which, with moisture, is evolved, and it will be of equal utility in apartments containing gas, or in the case of the same. While the upper part of the air the temperature is at the same temperature. The flame of the Argand lamp has already been tried up with advantage on this principle; and a handsome set of glass lights hung in the lecture room on this occasion, which, by the means of burning, showed a striking exemplification of the effects of the glass.

TALACRE COAL AND IRON COMPANY.

COURT OF ALDERMEN—APRIL 22.

The committee of Aldermen met this day to proceed in the investigation of the charges against Mr. Alderman Thomas Wood, in relation to his conduct while solicitor and agent of the Talacre Coal and Iron Company.—Mr. W. H. Ashurst (the present solicitor to the company) was present in consequence of a summons he had received.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ald. Brown), after the minutes of the last day's proceedings were read, made some observation to Mr. Ashurst, which he could not catch.—Mr. Ashurst said he attended the committee in consequence of their request, and was ready to answer any questions, but he objected to place himself in a position that would render him liable to Mr. Wood. He did not object to produce any book, but he declined to give evidence unless Mr. Ald. T. Wood wished it, especially as the committee had no power to protect him in his evidence. He said, also (as we understood), that he was anxious to be called upon to give evidence on the narrow question raised in the affidavits, which he believed the committee proceeded upon, for they did not exhibit the whole case.—The CHAIRMAN said they did not limit their inquiry to those affidavits, and Mr. Ald. Thomas Wood (who was attended by Mr. W. H. Ashurst, the solicitor, and Mr. Peter Laurie, the barrister), at the request of the committee, said he had no objection to the inquiry, and Mr. Ashurst would, therefore, pursue his own course.

Mr. Ashurst was then examined by the CHAIRMAN.—He produced the share, transfer, and two minute books. The original minute book he had not got, and had never seen it, or a copy of it. The book he had, commenced on the 18th of October, 1839, and he had a copy of the Dublin minutes from 1st June, 1839, but they were not all.—Mr. Ald. T. Wood intimated that Mr. Chappelow had them.—Mr. Ashurst believed all Mr. Chappelow ever had he had then; when he became concerned, he saw the importance of that first minute book, and applied to the secretary and Mr. Wood for it, but Mr. Wood never replied, and Ald. Wood said he had not seen it. He then offered a reward for it.—Sir F. LAURIE said he should have been glad to have had the advertisement before the committee.—Mr. Ashurst had advertised in several papers, but without success, and would procure the advertisement. It appeared to him, from Mr. Wood's affidavit, that he had a copy of it. The book he had, commenced with an entry of 18th October, 1839, being a meeting of directors—present, Wood and others—when Wood was appointed chairman, Weston and others directors, Bagnall engineer, &c., &c. It also contained a great many other entries, which were signed by Mr. Wood—for instance, minutes authorising Mr. Davis to prepare a report to the shareholders on 6th July, 1840; the acceptance of that report; the entry of a meeting in June, 1840, expressing that Mr. Wood had read his report, stating that there had been gross negligence on the part of Mr. Bagnall, and so on.—The CHAIRMAN referred Mr. Ashurst to the minutes of the meeting of 6th July, 1840.—Mr. Ashurst produced them, and also the drafts of the report, revised by Mr. Wood. He also produced the resolution signed by Mr. Wood, authorising the delivery out of a large number of the free shares to the following effect:—"That 72,400 of the paid-up shares be delivered forthwith to Messrs. Wood and others, in part payment for the Talacre property."—The share books were next referred to, and some discussion arose, as to whether, in Mr. Chappelow's affidavit, they had been properly quoted.—Mr. Ashurst pointed out that it was not stated that copies were sent out; the result of the two books, which was the material point, was stated; and, after some discussion, Mr. Ald. WILSON (or Mr. Ald. Gibbs, we forget which) asked if these two books did show the division of shares, as stated.—Mr. Ashurst said yes.—The CHAIRMAN: Do you find 7000, to Weston, 7000, to Davis, 4000, to Wood, 3000, to Bagnall, &c.—Mr. Ashurst: Yes.—The books were then handed in.

Mr. Ald. T. Wood, and the two legal gentlemen assisting him, declared he (Ald. Wood) had never taken the shares entered to him. Did Mr. Ashurst find he had ever signed for them?—Mr. Ashurst could only speak from the books; he knew nothing of the matter originally; the book was not signed by Mr. Wood for these free shares, but they were entered to him.—Several of the aldermen intimated their opinion (as we gathered) that that was immaterial; there were the shares entered and recorded.—Mr. Ashurst, in answer to further questions, stated, in substance, that the shares had, at all events, been taken from the company, and by Mr. Ald. T. Wood. The deed, prepared by him, took them from the company, and he produced a paper, which he said was signed by Mr. Ald. T. Wood, ordering the shares to be delivered.—The paper was then handed in, and Mr. Ald. Wilson and the chairman ordered it to be read. It was as follows:—

London, January 21, 1840.

GENTLEMEN.—We request you will deliver to George F. Baker 72,400 pounds shares in joint company, being part of the amount of the purchase of the Talacre property.

Addressed to the directors of the Talacre Coal and Iron Company, and signed by Thomas Wood, Warwick Weston, John Davis, William Hodgson, J. E. Hyndman, and others.

Mr. Ashurst said there was another document on the fly leaf, which was a receipt by Baker for the amount, thus showing they had been taken from the company.—Mr. Ald. GIBBS: What was the value of the shares?—Mr. Ashurst: They were 50s. each, declared to be paid up, and interest was to be paid on them. The amount named in the resolution would be 72,400s.—Many other entries in the books were then referred to, when Mr. Ald. T. Wood said he drew particular attention to the fact, that, at the first meeting, many proprietors were present, including Mr. Slaughter, Mr. Wild, Mr. Shaw, &c., whereas it was alleged he presided at sole and owner meetings, &c.; and, in answer to a question from the chairman, he said only two calls had been made.

After some time occupied with other entries, Mr. Ald. FARQUHARSON said that he thought they could shorten the matter, by having nothing to do with the speculation, further than merely entertaining the question, whether the parties, in the early part of 1839, alleged that the coal sent to Dublin was Talacre coal, and did they get that coal from the Bryn colliery; because, if so, there had been (as we understood) a fraud committed, and if any one shareholder had, after that time, taken a single share, he had been deceived and defrauded, but, if Mr. Ald. Wood showed to the contrary, there was then an end to their inquiry.—Mr. Ald. WILSON, after some further conversation, which arose in consequence of this suggestion, said he perceived that Mr. Ashurst had in his hands some invoices, and he wished to know what they were, and if they affected the subject.—Mr. Ashurst said he held in his hands an invoice of Levanon and Baker, made out to the Talacre Company for coal, supplied to them from the Bryn colliery (the Bryn colliery not being the property of the company), and two checks paying for these coals.—The CHAIRMAN: Where checks are they?—Mr. Ashurst: They are signed by Mr. Ald. Thomas Wood, and Mr. Weston, and countersigned by the secretary.

Mr. Broadfield (Mr. Ashurst's clerk, who was present with that gentleman), upon being questioned by the Peter Laurie, said he knew the Pulton and Bryn properties. The Pulton property was the Talacre mine, and was a separate and distinct mine from the Bryn. The Bryn was not the Talacre mine; that property was held under a distinct lease.—Mr. Ald. T. Wood declared this to be without foundation. The whole of the property was the Talacre mine—the Bryn, as well as the Pulton and March; all had been purchased by the company in March, 1838, and, though Levanon refused to allow the company to have the Bryn until 1840, there was nothing wrong, for they had always had a right to it, and did ultimately get it.—Mr. Broadfield persisted that he was correct. He appealed to the papers, which he said showed that the property was in different townships, and the local term "Talacre" did not apply to the Bryn, and which, at the time spoken of, belonged to Messrs. Foulkes and Co.—Mr. Ald. F. Wood warmly declared that both were in Pulton.—Mr. Broadfield said that the Pulton lease was in Pulton and Gwysarth townships, and the Bryn was not in that township, but in the township of Pulton and Alyn.—Mr. Ashurst said that his clerk had been on the property four or five times, but the committee would easily verify the truth from Mr. Slaughter, who held all the papers. Mr. Broadfield, however, had just put into his hands Mr. Wood's bill of costs, as confirming his (Mr. Broadfield's) declaration, and he then found this entry: "Instructions for assignment of lease of mines in Pulton and Alyn, known as the Bryn mine."—Mr. Ald. FARQUHARSON requested to see the deed.—Mr. Ald. BROWN said the mine mentioned in it was in Pulton and Gwysarth.—Mr. Broadfield: Yes, and the Bryn cannot be included.—Mr. Ald. Wood said that such was conveyed by a separate deed after.—Mr. Ashurst: Then, Mr. Ald. T. Wood, how can the record in that deed be true?—Mr. Ald. T. Wood said, "I shall not argue the question with you, Mr. Ashurst (order, order).—The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Ashurst had come there at their invitation, and had behaved most temperately, and was entitled to an answer.—Mr. Ald. Wood declared all could be explained; the Bryn had been conveyed by a separate deed to the receiver, and that the company got it.—Mr. Ashurst: But they paid 1200,000 for it. It was bought the 10th, and then sold to the company at 1000,000.—After some further conversation, the committee adjourned for the present, the short hand writer's notes being ordered to be printed.

REIDING AND GLOUCESTER RAILWAY.—NEW BRIDGE.—At a special meeting of the shareholders, held at the White Lion Hotel, Bristol, on Wednesday, the 15th inst., for the purpose of making arrangements with the Great Western Company for the construction of that portion of the Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway which connects it with the city of Gloucester (about eight miles), and other arrangements relative to the traffic, George Jones, Esq., in the chair, Mr. Farnham (the secretary) read the report, which was very long, and referred to a history of the railway from the commencement, and the various circumstances, in consequence of the formation of other lines, and stated that, by the proposed extension, an entry of 10,000,000 would be permitted, and also an annual revenue, in the joint line of one million.—Mr. Farnham proposed an amendment, which, however, was rejected, and the original motion carried by a large majority.

METALLIFEROUS DISTRICT OF CARDIGANSHIRE—No. II.

The surface of the ground rises from a series of hills of 200 or 300 feet in height, on the margin of the sea, gradually increasing in size, until they reach the highest mountain range, which is from 2500 to 2900 feet in height. This ground is broken through by two rivers, the Rheidol and the Ystwyth, which crosses it in deep ravines, evidently broken, to which the sides bear evidence, and seem as if they would fit each other if they were brought together. The general channels of these rivers are east and west, often varying from this direction, and thereby affording facility for examination of the veins and other subterranean phenomena in their line. On the Ystwyth the most western mine is Grogwinon. On the right bank, a mile and a half further eastward, are the Lisburne Mines, and three miles still further eastward is Cwmystwyth; other mines are on the banks, but as these are the principal starting points of different ranges of mines, it will not be necessary to advert to them here. The whole of the rock forming the mining district has its divisional planes northward and southward, which planes are more or less perpendicular, and on the bearing of these divisions or joints, (if the Lisburne Mines be taken as the starting point to the southward (on a line magnetic north and south), will be found the mines of Glogfach and Egar Mwyn, and to the northward a series of fifteen mines in as many miles, taking in almost all the great mines of the county, and running into the sea near Talybort. The other two ranges mentioned under the lines of Cwmystwyth and Grogwinon have not been so extensively developed—the only mines are the Cwmystwyth range being Graig-goch, Nanty-cris, and Egar-hir. This line runs to the eastward of the other mines, its direction being about a few degrees west of true north, and eventually will, no doubt, afford a number of extensive mines, as the veins are larger, and better filled with metal, than those in the lower hills, although the latter have been more sought after, probably from their being more sheltered in winter, and nearer the shipping ports.

[We regret that the avocations of our correspondent preclude him from entering more fully on the subject, but, as we are led to expect an extended paper will follow, treating more generally on the vast district to which his attention is directed, we give insertion to the preceding notes.]

NEW COMPANIES.

[In noticing such new adventures as may from time to time be brought before the public, it is hardly necessary to observe, that we must not be considered in any way to assist the correctness of the information conveyed (which, unfortunately, too often requires much cautious investigation), but merely to give our particular notice to our readers as we may glean from prospectuses, advertisements, &c., to call their attention to, and make them acquainted with, the subject.]

CULLENTRAGH PARK LEAD MINING COMPANY.

This company is being formed for the purpose of working a lead mine on the estate of Culentrath Park, in Glengaul, in the county of Wicklow, the property of the Earl of Meath. The Glengaulure lead mine, in the townland of Ballinacreebogue, adjoins, and the same veins intersect this sett, and has been worked almost without intermission for eighty years, with great success. The water-power of the River Avonbeg, immediately adjoining, is more than adequate to put the mine down to a requisite depth, as well as for stamping, crushing, &c.; it is proposed to divide the undertaking into 1000 shares of £1 each, with an immediate call of 30s. per share—£300 to be disposed of for a working capital, and 170, considered as paid, to be received as a compensation for the mine and the various expenses; it is to be managed by a committee of three, chosen from the shareholders, and the department in London and at the works to be conducted with the strictest economy.

CORNWALL COUNTY AND GENERAL TIN AND COPPER MINING ASSOCIATION.

This company is formed for working tin and copper mines in Cornwall; they have already engaged the Wheal St. Anny tin and copper mine, in the parish of Crowan; it is situated within five miles of the principal harbours, where all materials necessary for mining may be obtained at the cheapest rate and at a trifling expense of carriage. Some most productive mines are in the immediate neighbourhood—Carn Breva, Wheal Ver, Godolphin, Binner Down, Cook's Kitchen, &c., and some of the richest lodes pass through it. Several tin and copper lodes have been discovered in the sett; an adit of 300 fathoms has been driven, and a considerable sum already laid out in sinking shafts, &c., &c. The mine has been inspected by Captain Mark Read, of Wheal Vor, W. Smeaton, of Treleigh Consols, John James, of Gurnett's Head, and S. Holman, of Wheal Chance, all of whose reports are strongly in its favour, and recommend the company to lose no time in setting to work. The company's agents are now in treaty for other mines in the county, hitherto only partially worked. The capital is to be 100,000£, in 10,000 shares of 10£ each, deposit 1£ per share—the shareholders to possess the unusual privilege of electing the directors from their own body, at a meeting to be convened, when all the officers will be appointed. No further call will be made till the mine is in full operation, and no shareholder will be liable beyond the extent of his share.—[*Qy. Ed. M. J.*]

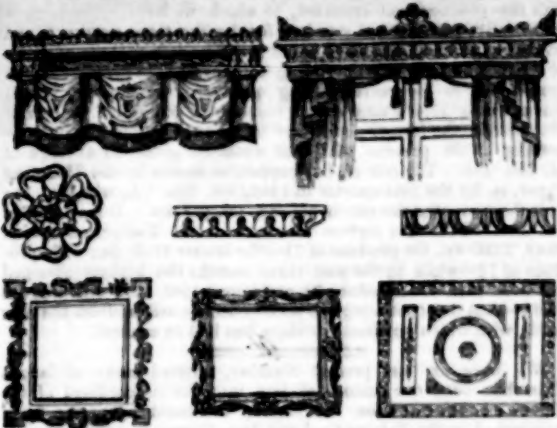
Mr. BRUNEL.—It is with the sincerest regret we have to announce that the valuable life of this talented engineer is placed in imminent danger by an accident, arising out of an amiable wish to amuse the children of a friend. The father and Mr. Brunel pretended, by slight of hand, to pass money from the mouth to the ear, and vice versa, when Mr. Brunel, placing a half sovereign in his mouth, it unfortunately slipped into the trachea, where it stuck, and every effort to remove it from its dangerous lodgment, up to this time, has proved fruitless, although no less than three incisions have been made in the throat for that purpose by Sir B. Brodie, assisted by Mr. Aston Key, Mr. Thompson, &c. The only mode by which removal can be administered to Mr. Brunel is through a glass tube, and the attempt is, of course, a liquid state. From inquiries made at the residence last night, we ascertained that Mr. Brunel was in a state of great exhaustion, that the medical attendance had found it impossible to proceed with the operation of extraction or removal in the present low state of their patient, and that it was feared, if the inflammation could not be kept under, the result would be speedily fatal.

BRISTOL AND EXETER RAILWAY.—The extension of the line to Beambridge—one and a half miles—will take place on Monday, the 1st of May, after which the mails will be accelerated by nearly three quarters of an hour.

FRENCH RAILWAYS.—On Wednesday last, the Minister of Public Works presented to the Chamber of Deputies a project of law relative to the construction of the new line of railroad from Orleans to Tours, which was conditionally granted by the Minister on the 29th of March, 1843, to Messrs. Bouteiller, Desbordes, Martin, and Co., on conditions nearly similar to those stipulated in the Paris and Belgium Railroad project. The concession is to be only for thirty-five years. It fixes the tariff of fares for passengers at 2 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 6 d. per kilometre (about a mile and a quarter); and for merchandise, 10 s. 10 d., and 5 s. 10 d., according to the nature of the articles to be carried. The length of the line is 114 kilometres, and the capital to be applied by the company to its construction will amount to about 20,000,000£. The State is to share in that part of the net profits of the undertaking which shall exceed 10 per cent. on the capital.—The Rouen Railroad shares have experienced another fall; private letters state that the decline in those shares had been produced by the loss about being made to the company by Government, the interest of which would necessarily detract from their profits.

RAILWAYS IN IRELAND.—Some steps appear to be now taking for the promotion of railways in the State, and it is hoped a scheme which would give employment to a large proportion of her population, and place Ireland in a commercial point of view on a footing with other countries, will receive the serious attention of Government. Parties of wealth and influence have warmly taken up the subject, and had an interview with Sir Robert Peel on the expediency of reviving the Dublin and Cork Railway project. A meeting took place in the early part of the present month, at which were present Lords Montagu, Clarendon, Montagu, Russell, Howard, and Hawes, &c., &c. The meeting was held for the purpose of explaining the results of the interview with the Premier. The discussion had had before it a project of the following outline:—That Government should introduce a public bill for the establishment of a company to undertake a railway from Dublin to Cork; proprietors of lands to be paid in shares—a guarantee for a certain amount of interest; Government to advance 100,000£, at 5 per cent. interest, to be repaid at the expiration of twenty years, and, in return, certain advantages given to the Government in the conveyance of troops and mails. Sir Robert Peel distinctly disapproved of the Government advancing money, or guaranteeing interest; but he intimated with great tact the discussion, and the disposition left with the impression that he would not be ready to come such schemes as the following:—That the Government should introduce a public bill to enable companies to construct any line recommended by the late Railway Commission, but that no particular line be referred to; that all guarantees relative to the value and purchase of land, should be decided by a tribunal appointed by the Government. The provisions proposed, considering themselves too free in order to come to a decision, as to the origin to be proposed, determined upon calling a public meeting, and the assistance of the Board of Works will probably be given.

ON THE USE OF IMPROVED PAPIER MACHE.



Though the manufacture and use of paper for the enrichments of ceilings, cornices, &c., is but little known to the generality of the public, it has been, for nearly 200 years, considerably in vogue, and has become, in the hands of Mr. C. F. Diezfeld, of Wellington-street, Strand, a manufacture of some considerable importance. Though the name is French, there is no doubt, however, that the invention is of English origin, and the particular circumstances which gave rise to its adoption for architectural purposes are well worthy consideration. With the Elizabethan style enriched plaster ceilings came general, and, in the more classic, or Italian, styles that followed, the same material was still more extensively brought into use; as the art advanced plaster became substituted for carved panelling and scrollwork. Foliage of the highest relief, and of the richest character, may still be found in many edifices remaining of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth centuries. These enrichments were modelled by the hand on the stone, in its place, while in a soft and plastic state; this work was obliged to be executed with rapidity, to prevent the stone from setting before finished, and it was, therefore, necessary the operator should have some of the qualities of an artist, having, in a great measure, to design as well as execute; this tended to limit the number of workmen, their pay came to be proportionally large, they soon assumed a consequence far above their rank in life, and it is even said they have been seen coming to work with swords at their sides, and their wrists adorned with lace ruffs. These practices were, of course, productive of much inconvenience, and when, at length, the workmen threw aside all restraint, and combined together to extort a most inordinate rate of wages, the masters were obliged, in their own defence, to resort to other contrivances, to supersede the old mode of working in stone. The art of moulding and casting in plaster, as previously introduced in France, was generally adopted, and the preparing the pulp of paper became greatly improved and extended, so as ultimately to render practicable the adoption of papier mache in the formation of architectural ornaments. Thus the delicate efforts on the part of the workmen to promote their own grasping views extinguished the very trade by which they lived, and there probably has not been, for very many years, a single individual in England accustomed to the business. The general introduction of plaster casts produced, however, a very mischievous effect on decorative arts; all the deep undercuttings and bold shadows which marked the style in Queen Anne's time became impracticable, when ornaments had to be cast; a tame manner ensued, and by the end of the last century the art of designing architectural ornament had fallen into a state of imbecility. The introduction of the pure and elegant simplicity of Greek ornament suited the limited capabilities of plaster casting, and, for a time, prevailed, but the stimulus of novelty having ceased, the bold originality of the Gothic, the metric richness of the Flemish and French, and the picturesque and fantastic forms of the Elizabethan schools, have all found admirers, and it is this change in the manner of designing ornament which has given rise to the important improvements in the manufacture of the highly plastic substance, papier mache. It is applicable to the exact imitation of all the bold carved carvings and deep undercuttings of the above styles, and its hard surface, yet elasticity, strength, imperishable nature, and lightness—the facility with which it may be put together and fixed—and, finally, its cheapness—are qualities which render its general adoption certain. In Mr. Diezfeld's show rooms will be found a most extensive assortment of ornaments and decorations, suitable for the cabinet maker, the architect, and house decorator, such as mouldings, cornices, centres, scroll legs of cabinets, and pier tables, ornamental brackets, window cornices, and canopies for bedsteads, &c.; for the latter purpose it has been advantageously used at Chatsworth, and at the throne in the House of Lords—also for the exterior of organs it is most appropriate; the most delicate tracery is executed with ease; for architectural decoration it is superior to wood carving itself, for all that Grinlin Gibbons has attempted on wood can be here executed, with all the sharpness of relief, as light, and having no grain, it is much more tough, and less liable to injury; columns of every order and degree of enrichment, capitals and bases, arabesques, caryatides, terminal, chimera, &c. In churches all the ornamental parts of gallery fronts, altar pieces, organ cases, &c., are now frequently entirely composed of this substance—and, in fact, it is introduced for every description of ornament, supplanting, not only plaster casting, but carving in wood itself, and in his assortment of picture frames will be found a sharpness and a relief in the ornament never hitherto attained in composition. We introduce a few representations of patterns in the show room, to give a general idea of what may be accomplished by this art.

JEFFERY'S MARINE CEMENT.

At a late meeting of the Society of Arts, Mr. Whishaw read a paper on Mr. Jeffery's marine glue, the peculiar properties of which are, its being insoluble in and impervious to water, elastic, so as to expand or contract, according to the strain on the timber, or the changes of temperature, sufficiently solid to fill up the joints, and add strength to the timber construction, and adhesive, so as to cement the timbers firmly together. Several practical experiments have been made in Woolwich and Chatham Dockyards; among these may be mentioned the following:—Two pieces of African oak, 14 inches long, by 9 inches wide, and 4½ inches thick, were joined together longitudinally by the marine glue, with a bolt of 1½ inch in diameter, passed through each of them from end to end. The day after the marine glue had been applied, the blocks were tested by means of an hydraulic machine. A strain was applied to the extent of sixteen tons, at which point one of the bolts broke, but the junction of the wood by the glue remained perfect. Two bolts of 1½ inch in diameter were inserted on the following day, and the strain was again applied until it reached twenty-one tons, when one of the bolts was broken, the junction of the wood still remaining perfect, and apparently not affected. Another experiment was tried with two blocks of African oak of similar dimensions, but bolted in a different manner, so as to apply the strain at right angles to the junction made with the glue at the centre. The wood split at a strain of five tons, but the joint remained perfect. The glue in one case was applied to elm; it resisted a strain equal to 300 lbs. on the square inch. This trial was made while the block was in a wet state, which state is considered most favourable for the effect of the glue. Several large pieces of timber were glued together, and suspended to the top of the chains at the dockyard at Woolwich, at a height of about seventy feet above the ground. From that elevation they were precipitated on to the granite pavement, in order to test the effect of concussion; this wood was shattered and split, but the glue yielded only in one instance, in which the joint was badly made, and after the third fall. An experiment was made with reference to the composition being used as a substitute for copper sheathing. This composition was applied without poison, to four sides of wooden blocks, and on two other sides it was applied in combination with poison equally destructive to animal and vegetable life. After the lapse of twenty-three months, these blocks were taken up, and were found to be covered with small shell-fish on the four unpoisoned sides, while the two sides charged with the poison were clean. The whole of the composition was slightly changed in colour, but was not deteriorated or affected in respect to its useful qualities. Another use consists in its application to the construction of masts. Its power of adhesion and elasticity fit it for the purpose of joining the spars of which masts are composed. A great reduction of expense is likely to follow its adoption for this purpose, as shorter and smaller timbers may be employed available, and most, if not all, the internal fastenings may be dispensed with. The timbers of the *Argo*, a 50-gun ship, and of the *Trident*, 100-gun ship, have been put together with glue, and the masts of the *Charybdis*, now reducing from a 90 to a 75-gun ship, are in progress of being joined. This invention may also be applied to the construction of dock-gates, sluices, piers, wooden bridges, &c.

GRANITEWORK.—An old author says, quaintly enough, that "in the making of granites there requires three essential ingredients—defiance, when offered it is to resist fire and flame of a redoubtable, and every it to the other two; chemical, pulverised, which constitutes the fire and granitic the stone, which otherwise would crumble the strength thereof; calcipetre, which causes a local calcination, and defies the fire itself. This granitic powder is the solution of potash, because for it is the fire and heat afterwards, the heat being always at the mark before the eye is turned. In that case, a solid is a solid not by way of working, but of thought."

MINING OPERATIONS IN SPAIN—No. II.

In continuation of the extracts from notes with which we have been favoured, we offer the following abstract having reference to mines in the Asturias, regretting that space will not admit of a more extended notice, which, however, with other material in our possession, will appear in our next. In the mountains of Caldoso, La Montaña de Alda, La Montaña Carones, La Montaña Buena Vista, La Montaña Roca, La Montaña Pelagrosa, are copper lodes of much promise, producing near the surface all the varieties of copper ores. The mines are opened to a very little extent, the deepest being no more than about sixty feet from the surface, which is called La Suerte. This is a north-east and south-west lode, with a westerly underlay of three feet in a fathom. These mines are now being opened by Spanish capitalists. The matrix here, as well as in all the mountains in the Asturias, is principally lock. Lodes, varying from one to six and nine feet big, with rich leaders and courses of ore, yielding several tons per fathom. These mines are situated near the north coast, and within short carriage of the navigable river and port of Ribadesella—ten leagues east of the port of Gijón. In this province, and in the vicinity of the towns of Arriondas, Infesta, and Artiguera, there are numerous veins of lead ores, rich in their produce, and many of them yielding silver, from 15oz. to 120oz. silver in the ton of ore. It abounds with an abundance of the richest class of iron ores and coal, and in the vicinity of the city of Oviedo particularly, coal is produced of excellent quality, where there are active operations going forward in making a railroad to export that article from the port of Gijón. Cobalt and cinnabar are found of the richest quality in the mountains of Asturias, as also amber and jet.

IMPERIAL BRAZILIAN MINING ASSOCIATION.

We are happy in being able to state that, notwithstanding the low produce of the mines during the past six months—in fact, the smallest ever known—the directors are enabled, and it is their intention at the ensuing meeting on the 11th of May next, to propose a dividend, out of actual profits. This has been effected by the strictest economy having been adopted in every department. Some few years since it took 600 lbs. of gold, or about 18,000l. sterling, to pay the half-year's expenses; while, with the produce of the past half-year, of only 369 lbs., they have realised a profit sufficient to declare a dividend; and it is confidently expected that dividends will again be paid at regular intervals. The present appearance of the Cumba Mine are more encouraging than for some time past, and sanguine expectations are formed that below the sixty-two fathom level this mine will prove highly profitable to the shareholders.

PRODUCE OF COPPER MINES IN CORNWALL.

FOR THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER ENDING MARCH 25, 1843 AND 1842.

Date.	Ore.	Price.	Prod.	Standard.	Yield exp.	Amount.
1843.	Tons.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Tons cwt.	£ s. d.
Jan. 25.	4555	5 10 0	77	114 12 0	540 2	27,24 11 6
" 12.	2405	5 13 0	59	112 0 0	292 9	16,119 13 6
" 19.	2485	5 0 0	77	113 2 0	183 13	14,837 9 0
" 26.	3461	5 15 0	77	115 0 0	233 19	19,750 7 0
Feb. 2.	2828	5 10 0	77	114 12 0	187 19	14,432 10 0
" 9.	2479	5 19 0	77	116 12 0	218 17	16,862 0 0
" 16.	2479	5 3 0	77	116 12 0	292 9	19,077 4 6
Mar. 2.	3034	5 1 0	77	116 12 0	219 0	18,099 18 0
" 9.	4098	5 7 0	77	116 12 0	367 9	28,703 18 6
" 16.	2295	5 2 0	77	116 12 0	193 4	14,768 13 0
" 23.	2978	5 9 0	77	116 12 0	274 8	18,777 10 0
	32474	45 14 11½			3049 10	219,776 13 6
1842.						
Jan. 4.	4385	5 7 0	77	125 0 0	230 14	26,143 11 0
" 11.	1798	5 0 0	77	125 0 0	123 18	10,992 4 6
" 18.	3174	5 0 0	77	125 0 0	189 0	19,614 0 0
" 25.	2448	5 0 0	77	125 0 0	128 18	10,618 0 0
Feb. 2.	2479	5 0 0	77	125 0 0	201 0	19,904 10 0
" 9.	1240	5 17 0	77	125 0 0	91 0	2,342 2 0
" 16.	1411	5 0 0	77	116 12 0	86 0	7,066 2 0
" 23.	3311	5 16 0	77	117 0 0	219 9	16,126 4 0
Mar. 2.	3094	5 10 0	77	116 12 0	234 4	19,104 11 0
" 9.	2533	5 19 0	77	119 0 0	299 19	15,779 18 6
" 16.	2316	5 4 0	77	119 0 0	178 17	16,157 5 0
" 23.	3828	5 5 0	77	116 12 0	285 6	17,641 12 0
	32948	45 8 10½			2344 5	218,096 18 0

PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

REAL DEL MONTE MINING COMPANY.

A special general meeting of the shareholders was held at the offices, 2, Duke-street, Adelphi, on Thursday, the 27th instant, for the purpose of considering and recording the resolutions passed at a meeting on the 10th instant, Mr. Wray in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN observed that, as this meeting was called for a specific purpose, no other proposition could be entertained, and, should the resolutions be rejected, other meetings must be called, and the same ground must be gone over again.—Mr. PHILLIPS, the secretary, then read the advertisement convening the meeting, and also the resolutions adopted at the last meeting, explaining the plan for the capitalisation of the loans, which will be found in the Journal of the 11th of March.—The CHAIRMAN having put the question for the confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, which was carried without any dissent, observed that neither of the two gentlemen who had all along opposed the plan were present on that occasion; but he would inform the meeting that he had seen one of them (Mr. Heath), who stated that he had no further intention of keeping up the opposition, nor should he take any steps for a Chancery suit, which had been threatened. He was not in possession of Mr. Giddard's sentiments at present; but he hoped they were as amicable. He considered these gentlemen had acted unbecomingly, and, as they had fought the battle heavily, they deserved credit for it. He thought the plan the best that could be adopted; they should take the earliest opportunity of carrying it out; and he trusted the prosperity of the mine would enable them to give satisfaction to all parties.—A vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman and directors, and the meeting separated.

BLAENAVON IRON AND COAL COMPANY.

The annual meeting of this company was held at the offices, in Pancras-lane, City, on Friday, the 20th instant, and was extensively attended.—The chair was taken by FRANCIS WARDEN, Esq. (the chairman of the company), who, after some preliminary observations, called on the secretary to read the report, from which it appeared that the directors regretted the increased depression of the iron trade, which they had endeavored to meet by a general reduction in the expenditure of the company. As the works were in a most efficient state, it was stated that but a slight improvement in prices would be followed by a return of profit to the shareholders. In concluding their report, the directors submitted a plan for raising the sum required to carry on the concern, and the names of Mr. Masterman, Mr. Radford, and Mr. Berne, were proposed for re-election.—A balance sheet was laid on the table for the inspection of the proprietors.—After the reading of the report, a long discussion took place upon the manner of raising the sum required, so as to do justice to the holders of the new shares, and to give the full advantages that were expected by the old shareholders, by their advancing *pro rata*, in which the chairman, Mr. Masterman, Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. Hill, Mr. Bevan (directors), Mr. Kingsbury, Mr. Earle (of Liverpool), Mr. P. Jones, Mr. Howell, Mr. W. W. Jones, Mr. Thompson, and other proprietors, took part, the result of which was, that resolutions to the following effect, and in support of the recommendations of the directors, were passed unanimously:—viz., "That the new shares held by those parties who are willing to take a debenture of 5 per cent. upon the amount they have already paid up, be re-secured; and that, if the old shareholders be desirous of being re-secured, at the rate of 25 per cent. upon debentures, for five or seven years, at 5 per cent. per annum, to enable the directors to meet the present exigencies of the company."—The three directors (Mr. Masterman, Mr. Radford, and Mr. Bevan) were then unanimously elected, to whom, as well as to the chairman and other directors, a very complimentary vote of thanks was carried, with applause, for their great attention and valuable services to the company.—A list of shareholders who had approved of the plan of the directors, was laid on the table, which was immediately signed by a number of others in the meeting.—The CHAIRMAN then moved the adjournment of the meeting to the 10th of May, for the purpose of considering the resolutions passed on this occasion, when the business terminated.

IRON RAILS.—Black cast iron is more abundant in Cheshire than in any other part of Great Britain, where the deposits lie along the line of the valley of the river Weaver, in small patches, about Northwich. The soil was accidentally discovered in the year 1670, in sinking a coal-pit at Marbury, about a mile from Northwich; about 100 tons are annually taken from the pit in the vicinity of the town. There are two beds of iron soil, lying beneath fifty yards of common earth, in which are traces of organic remains; the upper bed is twenty-five yards thick, and is separated from the lower one by two yards and a half of common earth, similar to the general one; and the lower bed of soil is about thirty-five yards thick, but has sometimes been perforated. Whichever of the two beds is used is at present uncertain. They lie horizontally, or nearly so, and both are below the level of the sea; they extend about 1000 yards, measuring from north-west to south-west.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

APRIL 25.—The PRESIDENT is in the chair. The minutes of the discussion gave some sound practical remarks upon the Glasgow Water-Works, by Mr. James Simpson, in which he stated that when filtering medium was properly disposed, the impurities suspended in the water were arrested at or near the planes of ingress, and that, therefore, filtering-beds should be of extensive surface, in order to allow of the process being as slow as possible, and that by following this system, he had not found it necessary to change the mass of the materials composing the filtering-beds during sixteen years, but only to change the surface.

The Secretary then read an account of the brickmaking at the Hetchingly Tunnel, by Mr. F. W. Simms. This part of the Dover Railway was not let by contract; it was, therefore, necessary to make extensive preparations previously to commencing the work, and of these a good supply of bricks was the principal. The clay for making them fortunately abounded immediately above the line of the direction of the tunnel; the brickgrounds were, therefore, established near the several shafts which were used for the excavation. Drying-houses and kilns were also erected for manufacturing during the winter, and from the details given in the paper, every care appears to have been devoted to making the bricks in the best as well as the most economical manner; accurate observations were recorded of the cost of every separate process, with the time occupied; and the result was, that during the winter of 1840, and the following summer of 1841, upwards of 14,000,000 bricks were made of a superior quality, at a cost of 2d. 1s. 6d. per 1000, delivered at the shafts, which was a little under the cost allowed for in the original estimate expense. The paper contained also a careful comparison of the two modes of "stop moulding," and "sandstock moulding," and gave many details of use for consultation for engineers or architects. An animated discussion ensued, in which many useful practical points were elicited.

The following papers were announced to be read at the next meeting (May 2), when the monthly ballot for members will take place:—"Description of a Cast-Iron Bridge completed in the year 1840, for carrying the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway over the River Avon, near Tewkesbury," by Captain Moorcroft, Assoc. Inst. C.E.;—"Description of the Cast and Wrought-Iron Bridges, erected on the line of the Bishop Auckland and Wearside Railway," by John Storey;—"Description of a Roof erected at the Chartered Gas Company's Works, Westminster," by F. T. Evans, Assoc. Inst. C.E.

NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL COAL.

During the last week a series of very interesting experiments have been made at the Polytechnic Institution, to test the value of a new species of artificial coal, invented and patented by M. Joachim Cooke, Esq., as compared with the best natural anthracite. Mr. Cooke's specification not having been yet enrolled, we cannot state what the component parts of his coal are, but we understand that it is chiefly made up of the refuse of average small Newcastle coal. It has a very compact appearance, burns brightly, has no tendency to caking, and yields a very small portion of ashes. The experiments were made by alternately working the steam-engine of the institution with the Welsh and with the patent coal, for whole days at a time. From the results, which are exhibited in the following table, it will be seen that the difference of consumption, though not great, was in favour of the patent fuel. It must be remembered, however, that while the average small Newcastle coal costs only 13s. 2½d. per ton in the Pool, the best Welsh costs 17s. 11d.; what the refuse of the former may be had for we do not know, but we should suppose for not more than one-half as much. To the point, therefore, in point of quantity, must be added the still greater gain in price; so that the difference in favour of the patent fuel must altogether be very considerable.—We quote the foregoing from the *Mechanist's Magazine*, which also gives the following as the results of the different experiments:—

	Quantity consumed.	Average pressure.
	cwt. qrs. lbs.	lbs. per inch.
No. 1. Welsh.....	4 3 14	289
No. 2. Welsh.....	4 3 0	242
No. 3. Cooke's fuel.....	4 2 0	243

NEW PATENTS FOR APRIL.

(FROM MR. J. H. FRANCIS, CHIEF CLERK, EDWARDS ROAD, MIDDLESEX, FOR CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS IN MILK PUMPS AND MILK SQUEEZING MACHINES.)

- N. H. J. Francis, Chief Clerk, Edwards Road, Middlesex, for certain improvements in rotary pumps and rotary squeezing machines.
- R. Faraday, Westminster, for improvements in ventilating gas-burners, and burners for consuming oil, tallow, &c. (Being a communication.)
- Mr. S. Brown, Kent, Blackheath, Commander in her Majesty's Navy, for improvements in the construction of breakwaters, and in constructing and erecting light-houses and beacons, and floating, and in apparatus connected therewith; and also in anchors for mooring the same, which are applicable to ships or vessels.
- J. Sylvester, Great Russell-street, Middlesex, engineer, for certain improvements in producing ornamental surfaces on or with iron, applicable to the manufacture of stoves, and other uses; and for improvements in modifying transmission of heat.
- F. Hills, of Bedford, manufacturing chemist, for certain improvements in steam-boilers or generators, and in locomotive engines.
- G. J. Young, Brompton-street, Old Grand-lane, Wapping, engineer, for improvements in the construction of capstans.
- J. Byrdell, Jew, Oak Farm Iron-Works, near Dudley, Ironmaster, for improvements in manufacturing bars of iron with other metals.
- R. and W. Hawthorne, Newcastle-on-Tyne, civil engineers, for certain improvements in locomotive-engines, parts of which are applicable to other steam-engines.
- J. Mitchell, Glasgow, Cornwall, for improvements in extracting copper, iron, lead, bismuth, and other metals or minerals, from the ore.
- J. Napier, Hinton, Middlesex, dyer, for improvements in preparing or treating fabrics made of fibrous materials, the covering roads and the bottoms of ships and vessels, and other surfaces; and for other uses.
- Wm. Maxwell, Brompton-green-road, Westminster, artist, for improvements in machinery or apparatus for registering or indicating the number of persons which enter any description of carriage, house, room, chamber, or place; and also the number of passengers and carriages that pass along a bridge, road, or way.
- C. Taylor, J. F. Dugard, and H. Datta, Valence Foundry, Lancaster, engineers, for certain improvements in boilers.
- J. Hyman, Liverpool, engineer, for an improved system of connection for working the cranks of what are commonly called direct action steam-engines.
- C. L. Farwig, Haverhill-street, Covent-garden, the plate worker, for certain improvements in gas-meters.
- G. G. Bodmer, Manchester, engineer, for certain improvements in locomotive steam-engines and carriages to be used upon railways, in marine engines and vessels, and in the apparatus for propelling the same; and also in stationary engines, and in apparatus to be connected therewith for pumping water, raising iron, and for blowing or exhausting air.
- J. Reed, Howland-street, Fitzroy-square, artist, for improvements in the manufacture of the and other soft metal toys.
- T. Green, Lewisham, Kent, patent fuel manufacturer, and F. C. Wardell, Cardiff-street, gent., for improvements in the manufacture of fuel, and in machinery for manufacturing fuel.
- J. Johnston, Esq., Willow Park, Greenwich, for improvements in the construction of steam-boilers, and machinery for propelling vessels.
- R. Freeman and J. Collier, Birmingham, civil engineers, for improvements in the machinery to be used in manufacturing pipes and bars, and in the application of such pipes or bars to various purposes.
- E. C. M. Vindicta, Lancaster-square, late advocate, for improvements for warming the interior of railroad and other carriages. (Being a communication.)
- J. Mann, Millman-street, Bedford-row, surveyor, for improvements in the manufacture of bricks to be used in the construction of chimneys and flues.
- W. Maes, Lower Chapman, Middlesex, and J. Warrington, Wandsworth-road, Surrey, gentlemen, for improvements in the construction of watered tapestry, and in the means for containing watered tapestry. (Being a communication.)
- A. Whynham, Liverpool, ship builder, for an improved mode of rolling certain sorts of ships, and other vessels.

AN IRON PALACE.—A few weeks since we gave a brief notice of the iron mansion then in course of erection in Liverpool on an African King; we now publish some interesting particulars, for which we are indebted to the *Liverpool Standard*:—"The Palace of King Rhyacah, of Old Calabar, built of plate and panels of iron, upon a wooden skeleton merely, by Mr. W. Laycock, the iron merchant, of Oldfield-street, was, on Friday, open to public exhibition (for the benefit of the charities), in the open space near the Post-office. The structure consists of two stories and no attic. The first-floor contains a central hall, forty feet by fourteen, and four rooms eighteen feet by fifteen; the whole ten feet high. The second-floor is thrown into one grand state room, forming the royal audience-chamber, fifty feet by thirty, extending to forty in the recesses, and lighted by thirteen windows. It is extremely airy and handsome, and is twelve feet in height. The attic is an apartment, extending over the entire building. The ceiling and walls of the hall of audience are richly decorated by Mr. Dodd, of Dodd-street, and on the walls are placed a number of *Jeannin* and *Bedfordshire* spinners pictures, in popular attire, which will certainly attract 'the natives.' More of these are to follow; one of the lower rooms is to be splendidly gipsy; and those who visit the palace must be induced to go again, from the circumstance that embellishments of the first order will be gradually added to the attractiveness of the palace. When in Africa, the building will be placed seven feet above the ground, on piles of hard wood, leaving space for above and below, the whole being designed rather as a state, or business, place, than as a domestic residence. It is surrounded by a balcony and verandah, and will be painted a light straw colour (to resist the solar heat). The value of the whole is from 1000l. to 1500l. It is stated that his Majesty has just agreed."

IRON RAILWAYS.—A meeting of Peers and Members of the House of Commons, convened with Ireland, we perceive, is announced to be held at the Thatched House Tavern, on Wednesday, the 2d of May, for the purpose of presenting a railway communication between Dublin and Cork, and Limerick and Clonmel. Full particulars of the proceedings shall appear in our columns.

THE GREAT DRY.—The receipts for coal duty at the Newcastle Custom House, for the first quarter of this year, amounted to 15,000l.—The quantity of coal sold in 1842, was 1,045,000 tons. The quantity exported during the corresponding quarter of last year, was 1,045,000 tons, at the same rate of duty, had produced 15,000l.—*Gateshead Observer.*

are they?" And what is the reply of Mr. ASHURST?—"They are signed by Mr. Ald. THOMAS WOOD and Mr. WESTON, and countersigned by the secretary." It is hardly necessary for us to proceed further, as it is notorious that the Picton Mine, which formed the Talacre property at the time, was perfectly distinct from that of the Bryn; and, moreover, that the latter was purchased at a subsequent period, by the directors, and held under a distinct lease—the Bryn Colliery at the time referred to by Mr. Ald. FAREBROTHER being the property of Messrs. FOULKES and Co. With reference even to this latter addition to the property, it appears that the company paid 100 per cent. on the purchase money.

The Court of Aldermen, in this inquiry, must not forget the position in which Mr. CHAPPELOW has been placed by Mr. Ald. T. WOOD—indeed, we should hope, that it is hardly necessary to remind them, that this gentleman was confined for three months in a prison, upon a judgment recovered on the bills which Ald. THOS. WOOD advised him to sign, and which formed part of the 110,000*l.* given by the company's deed to Mr. Ald. WOOD and others for the Picton property of 489 acres. The Aldermen of London should—and, doubtless, do—know that two of the shareholders have been already made bankrupts; and will feel that it is due to the families, as well as to the business connections, of Mr. SHAW and Mr. CHAPPELOW, to inquire into every matter connected with the company. Let them also reflect upon the misery which the families of the shareholders have had entailed upon them through Mr. WOOD, and pause before they close so narrow and uneven an inquiry. Mr. Ald. WOOD is before them—Why not Mr. CHAPPELOW, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SLAUGHTER, Col. VERNER, Messrs. WILD, RAWSON, ATKIN, and the other unfortunate shareholders?

We have now run through the main features of the proceedings, and it appears to us that, up to the present time, the inquiry has not been of that searching nature which its importance, as affecting the character of a magistrate of the City of London, and a candidate for the highest honours the citizens can confer, demands. However, the Court of Aldermen may be of opinion that they possess sufficient evidence to prove a guilty knowledge, if not actual participation in the fraud; and, as such may be considered ample to effect the object in view, they are not anxious to enter upon additional evidence, which, while it might tend to blacken the character of the party accused, would be attended with much trouble and expense, besides being the cause of much acerbity of feeling. In all this they may be right; but if they do not follow up the inquiry to that point which is essentially necessary for the protection of the public and for upholding the high character which should pertain to the magistracy of the City of London, we shall well censure their acts, and see the nature of the evidence on which they ground their conclusions.

In another part of our Journal will be found a short notice of the plan patented by Mr. BANKS for railway wheels, by introducing steel in the tire, whereby a very considerable saving is effected, as demonstrated by the relative costs of those constructed on the present plan and by the patented method. The patent being now in operation, and some of the wheels having travelled over a space of upwards of 50,000 miles without requiring repair—and, further, as we are given to understand, being, from appearance, well calculated to perform nearly double the distance—the saving which may be effected by this plan forms an important feature in the expenditure of railways, which, when once constructed, require only scrupulous attention to the item of wear and tear, and to the economy of locomotives. We believe we are right in saying, that at least 1,000,000*l.* has been expended in the cost of railway wheels; now, if, by this mode of partially steeling the tires, a saving, as shown by the article to which we have referred, of 200,000*l.* per annum can be effected, it would form an important item in the account of expenditure. We hope to be in possession of other and more detailed information, when we shall gladly present it to our readers, feeling that, to enjoy all the advantages contemplated by the construction of railways, the saving of time, and comparative reduction of distance, are not the only desiderata, for, in addition to an ample remuneration being derived by the shareholder, a reduction in the cost of transit is looked for by the public. Any invention calculated to effect this object, is highly deserving of notice, and, as evidence of the opinion entertained of the importance and value attached to the patent, we may observe that licensees have already been granted to parties in London, and other parts of the country.

If we did not in our last Number advert to the demise of his Royal Highness the Duke of SUSSEX, it was not that we did not feel the loss sustained by the scientific world, to whom his patronage was ever afforded, but that we were desirous of following in our even course, confining our remarks to the incidents of the day as applying to scientific research, from which his Royal Highness had of late, to a certain extent, withdrawn. As the President of the "Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce," his loss is felt, for ever did he evince towards that institution a feeling, which was not only honourable to him as a scion of noble blood, but which had its natural influences on the scientific world, and, in a great measure, contributed to the progress of science, and the advancement of the society. It is now, we believe, thirty-two years since the Duke of SUSSEX was elected as a member of the society, and presided at the annual distribution of prizes; and, in the year 1816, was elected president. While we regret his loss as a patron of science, we have to congratulate ourselves on the proud position which his Royal Highness held during his life, and the example he has set to others to follow in his wake.

It is with much pleasure we direct attention to an article in our present Number from the pen of our able and valued correspondent, **W. J. HANWOOD, F.G.S.**, more especially as that gentleman has given us to understand that, after fourteen years' anxious toil, his work—which will, doubtless, establish the author in the estimation of those to whom he is unknown, in that position to which he is so justly entitled—will shortly issue from the press. We have been favoured with a perusal of some of the tabular matter, with the statistical information conveyed, and cannot but anticipate that the publication will be as useful and valuable to those who take an interest in scientific pursuits, and mining operations, as it will redound to the credit of its talented author.

ANTHRACITE IRON.—We are given to understand that a furnace has just been started at Tolmieville, about five miles below Llanelli, to smelt with anthracite alone (we presume under Mr. Cross's patent), and the foundation of a second laid on the third instant. The make is, we learn, at the rate of fifty to fifty-five tons per week; but, as the furnace can hardly be considered warm, or in a working state, it would be unjust to form any conclusions—although the "make," we should say, in this, judging from the Valdey's works, and now especially as such, we know, exceeds the average made with coal-lime at the Valdey's Works. At Mr. Cross's works, a new furnace has also been blown in within the past fortnight, but we are not in possession of such information as would justify us in speaking of results, which, however, we hold to be of a catalytic nature.

COAL MINING AT HARRINGTON.—We have much pleasure in announcing that the coal-mines at Harrington are again in active operation. The deepest gratitude is felt by the inhabitants, particularly the labouring classes, towards the worthy proprietor, Henry Curwen, Esq., for the timely re-opening of a colliery, which is, in a great measure, the sole dependence of the town. May it go on prosperously; and, while its operations prove advantageous to its proprietor, they will, at the same time, tend to relieve the distresses which the poor now experienced in it have lately felt. —*Whithorn Herald.*

COAL IN NEW BRASSARD.—Companies are said to have been formed for working the coal mines in Coal Bay, and four gentlemen of the coal have been sent to England on applications.

ON SUBTERRANEAN TEMPERATURES, OBSERVED IN THE
CORNISH MINES.

BY W. J. HENWOOD, C.E., F.R.S., F.G.S. LONDON AND PARIS.
[Communicated by the author.]

As the explosion of gunpowder, combustion of candles, and respiration of the workmen in mines, must inevitably affect the temperature of the air in them, and also, more or less, influence that of the rocks which form the sides (walls) of the levels; observations on the temperature, either of the air or the rocks, must, to some extent, be open to objection. This cause of error is, however, less likely to operate on streams of water flowing from the unbroken rock; all the following observations have, therefore, been made on the temperature of running water immediately as it issues.

The various districts consist of the ten different groups into which the mines of the west of England seem naturally separated; and they have been fully described in the *Transactions of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall*, vol. v.

The order in which my results may be most conveniently arranged, is, I., the temperatures at corresponding depths in the different districts; II., those of the two great rock formations, under similar circumstances; III., those of the veins (lodes) yielding different metals; and, IV., of the rocks, — *sine lodes*, and cross veins under like conditions.

[illegible]

Logs.	Surface to 10 fathoms.		10 to 100.		100 to 150.		150 to 200.		200 and below.		Means.	
	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.
On bottom	17	52.14	21	52.15	120	53.30	180	54.82*	310	57.20	90	56.60
Log on yielding both the sand and copper ores	33	51.46	79	51.6	180	56.00	271	51.75†	—	—	74	51.45
Support bottom	30	50.99	74	51.00	179	50.90	178	50.35	344	52.14	140	51.70

—	Surface to 10 fathoms.		10 to 100.		100 to 150.		150 to 200.		200 and below.		Means.	
	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.	depth.	temp.
Rocks	10	52.10	79	51.70	114	50.60	160	52.11	210	47.70	111	47.14
Cross-veins	30	52.70	70	51.70	113	50.75	160	50.40	200	50.75*	90	51.95
Log on	10	54.00	71	52.47	105	50.90	160	52.81	245	50.37	111	50.14

1. It appears that different temperatures prevail at similar depths below the surface in the different districts; and that at all depths some tracts have a lower temperature than others. This leads to the conclusion that the isothermal lines underground do not coincide with the configuration of the surface. It scarcely seems probable that the different elevations of the different districts may account for the whole of the observed differences; although they possibly may for some of them.

7. The general fact that the slate rocks possessed a higher temperature than the granitic ones at the same depth was ascertained by me, some years since,* but for a great while previously it had been suspected by practical miners. Table II. affords a most decisive confirmation of its truth; but proves that at great depths the same difference in the temperatures of the granitic and slate formations, in much larger than had been before suspected.

3. It has from time immemorial been imagined that the temperatures of tin lakes were lower than those of copper lakes. Table III. shows the results of this examination, and that this difference prevails at all depths.

4. With but a single exception Table IV. proves that at all depths the rocks are warmer than either the lakes or crum wine. Whether this may arise from the more cellular structure of the veins, permitting the medium water an easier passage downward than the rocks afford; or whether

there it is due to some other cause, is not the object of this communication to discuss. This general fact is at variance with the opinions now current, but it is disclosed by too large a series of observation to admit of doubt.

A curious circumstance has come to light in the course of these inquiries. On examining the temperature of the same spot at different times, first when it was the deepest part of the mine, and afterwards when deeper workings had been extended beneath it, it was found that the temperature

* Report of the British Association, for 1859.

had declined in the interval. Whether this was occasional by the deeper levels intercepting the warmer water rising from beneath, whilst this level still received that coming from above, or whether some other cause may have occasioned this difference is certainly a curious inquiry; but as I do not wish to entangle the subject with theoretical discussions, I forbear following it further. Local causes undoubtedly modify general laws in many instances; the subject of subterranean temperature forms no exception to this; for such influences are often conspicuous; sometimes they elevate, and at others they depress the temperature; the general fact of a progressive increase of temperature as we descend, is, however, confirmed by every observation; I respectfully submit this communication to the Royal Institution, and as it contains the results of 386 observations, I hope I am guilty of no undue confidence in claiming some consideration for the accuracy of conclusions drawn from so large a collection of facts.

COAL-FIELDS OF GREAT BRITAIN.—No. VII.*

(Continued from Journal of 8th Inst.)

36. COAL.—This bed is called Blaxter's coal, at Gilmerton, where it measures two feet in thickness, and lies about three fathoms below the third limestone; at other places the distance varies from three to six and a half fathoms. At Woolmet and Niddry the thickness is three feet, but two feet may be considered as the usual measurement; at Cowden, however, it is only six inches, and at Stobhill thirteen inches thick; at Preston pit, where it is the upper coal, the thickness is ten inches only. It occurs at all the following places:—Duddingston over Brunstein, Niddry, Gilmerton, Cowden, Loanhead, Woolmet, Wallford, Bryant's, Armliston, Stobhill, Preston pit.

37. COAL.—This coal lies often about four fathoms below No. 36; but at Bryant's the distance is five fathoms; at Preston Grange it is twelve fathoms. It occurs in the same collieries as No. 36. At Loohead it is five feet thick; at Niddry and Woolmet, three feet; and in the other places generally about two and a half feet.

38. **COAL.**—The distance between this coal and No. 37 varies from two and a half to fourteen and a half fathoms; the latter distance, however, occurs at Niddry only; in other places it never exceeds five fathoms. At Niddry and Dryden it is three feet thick; at Cowden and New Mills level two feet and a quarter; and at other localities, two feet and under; at Ar-niston it is only six inches. It occurs near the surface at the Sandy quarry of Tranent, where it measures eighteen inches.

39. COAL.—This coal varies in its distance from the seam immediately above it, from one to eight fathoms, and the thickness varies from one to three feet. It attains the latter thickness, however, at Cowden, Loanhead, and Bryant's; at New Mills level it is two and a half feet; and at Niddry Woodmet, Arnisston, and Blinnkynny, two feet; at Gilmerton, one foot four inches; and at Duddingston, only twelve inches.

40. COAL.—This is called the Great Seam. Its distance from No. 39 at Bryant's and Cowden, is ten fathoms; in other places it is much less. The following are the places where its thickness is ascertained:—Gillertun, West Windy-gow, and Elphinston, ten feet; East Windy-gow, *between the dipper*, Sandy Quarry at Tranent, Wallford Cowden, nine

(twenty inch cone), Sandy Quarry at Trummet, Washington County, and to ten feet; Nidbury Cowden, Woolmet, Drum, Loanhead, Preston Grange, Bryant's, New Mills level, Preston pit, eight to nine feet; Joppa, Cowsland, Stobhill, seven to eight feet; Bryant's and Blinkbonny, six to seven feet; and at Vogrie, four feet only. This is one of the most important

41. **THE PARROT COAL.**—This is a thin seam of parrot, or cannel, coal measuring from a foot to eighteen inches, and lying from fourteen to twenty feet below the Great Seam at Gilmerton and New Mills.

42. COAL.—At Gilmerton, Drum, Woolmet, and Niddry, this seam is known by the name of the Stairhead coal; at Tranent, and many other places, it is called the splint coal. It occurs at all the places enumerated in No. 49. At Tranent, Windy-gowl, Wallisford, Elphinstoun, and Blind—the, it is from five to six feet thick; at Niddry, Woolmet, and Drum,

43. This, like No. 42, is known by different names, such as the Green
Gullies, Gullies, and Boggs. The distance from the main shore is variable.

gillies, Chas. and Parrot. The distance from the beam above to the water is about 10 feet, and the greatest eleven fathoms. At Niddy, Drum, Cowden, and Stobhill, it is about four feet; at Woolton New Mills level, and Bryant's, it is from three to four feet; at Looshae Dryden, and Carberry, it is two feet; Elphinstown, two and a half feet; Tranent, Blindwells, and Penciland, it is less than two feet; at Penciland it is only one foot, and forms the upper coal.

44. **MOFFAT'S COAL** is the next seam in the descending scale. It averages about three feet in thickness, and the distance is from sixteen feet six and a half fathoms.

45. **COAL**.—This is known by the names of Gillespie's, the Four Feet the Small, and the Blackbird coal. It varies from two to five feet in this

The small, anomic trackways close to the base of the section are common, and are situated from two to eight fathoms below No. 44. At Gilman it is five feet nine inches in one pit (Marshall's), and in Ainslie's one foot thick; at Sandy Quarry, it is five feet four inches; at Nidley's Cowden, it measures four feet; and from three to four feet at Woodhead, Leashead, Dryden, Elphinstone, Pennisthill, and Huntlaw; at Penarth the upper coal is five feet thick.

46. This coal lies from two to six or eight fathoms below the last mentioned. At Loughhead it is five feet thick, but in other localities it is one foot, or less.

47. COAL.—This seam is known at different places by the following names:—Black Chapelhill, Upper Coal, Pustlin, Chapel, and Carvatin. The distance varies from four to ten or twelve fathoms. At Nidrick, it twelve feet thick; at Gilmerston, three feet three, and seven feet; at Long hand and Dryden, five feet; at Stoddhill, four and a half feet; at Bryant four feet; Preston Grange and Blackburny, three and a half feet; and Broadstone Muir, two and a half feet.

48. Coal.—This coal lies at eight, three, and one fathom below No. 47. At Nidderly, it is three feet; at Gilmerton, two feet nine inches, and two feet two inches; at Leithhead, two feet two inches; at Preston Grange, two feet two inches; and at Stobhill, and Brunstain Muir, it is only twelve and fifteen inches thick.

49. **Coal**, known by the names of Little Gillespie, Lower Coal, Pease and Mac Gochie's. At Stubbins, it is three feet three inches thick; at N. dry, two feet seven inches; at Womert, two feet; and at Preston Grant, eighteen inches.

sis fathoms below No. 49. At Duddington, it is five feet thick; at N dry, one and three feet; at Bryant's, Lonshead, Woodmet, and Stubb three feet; at Gilmerston, two feet two inches; and at Preston Grange, one and a half feet.

51. Coal.—Called the *Middle, Pomeroy, or Leominster*, coal: it runs from ten to nineteen or twenty fathoms lower than No. 50; at Leominster and Dryden, it is five feet thick; at Gilmerton, four feet; at Wouda three feet; at Ducklington, Nidder, and Gloscombe, two feet nine inches; at Fuffot, two feet four; and Arniaton, sixteen inches.

52. **Coal.**—This seam is known by the names of the Little Lignite, or *Sanctuary*, and *Sandy Quarry*. It is four feet eight inches thick; *Elphinstone*, four feet four inches; *Woodcut*, three and four feet; *Cornland*, four feet; at *Nidderly*, *Lowland*, and *Dryden*, three feet; *Fordel*, four feet eight inches; *Fogget*, two feet four inches; and at other places

23. **Grass Creek.**—This stream lies about from two and a half to three and a half fathoms below No. 52. At Lonshead, it is three feet; at Eden, three and a half feet; and Penarth Grange and Arcturian, one foot and a half thick.

14. *Brown's Coal*.—This occurs seven or six fathoms below *Glass Coal*. At Lomond and Dryden, it measures two and a half feet thickness; at Noddy and Gilmurree, it is only two feet; while at Brunst *Muir*, the thickness is only eight and twelve inches.

issue below Bowen's Coal. It measures from five to five feet. At Dington, Nidder, Langton Quarry, Linsford, Blinworth, Dymley, Preston Grange, five and a half feet; at Arminston, Westcott, Giltwode and Cowland, three and a half feet; and from two to three feet at Dronfield, Rotherham, Puffin, Cockfield, Poulton, Haslewood, and Poulton.

(To be continued in an early number)

BANKS'S IMPROVEMENTS IN RAILWAY WHEELS.

The improvements in the construction of Banks's patent railway wheels consist, in the first place, of turning a groove entirely round the rim, or periphery, of the wheel, into which is inserted a hoop, bar, or segments of steel, or other hard metal, thereby producing a great permanent saving in the wear and tear. A variety of trials have been made to the entire satisfaction of engineers and other scientific men, particularly on the Manchester and Leeds Railway, where more than 169 pairs of wheels have had their tires repaired on Mr. Banks's plan. One pair of old wheels so repaired was tested with a pair of the best new wheels (of ordinary construction), under a first-class carriage, with break, which wheels required turning up after running 16,000 miles; but those steered on Banks's plan were but little worn after running 50,000 miles—the same wheels are still at work, and it is expected will complete 100,000 miles, or double the distance, before they require to be re-steered. The company, indeed, are so perfectly satisfied with the superiority of the patented plan, that they have since given Mr. Banks orders to have all their sound wheels steered, or fitted up in a similar manner, as they may require it. About thirty pair of locomotive-engine driving-wheels have already been repaired on this plan, the tires of which were so worn, that, but for the application of the steel segments, they must have been replaced with new tires, at more than three times the cost of the repairs under Mr. Banks's patent, while, at the same time, a considerable advantage is gained from their increased durability over the best hitherto used. A leading feature of this improvement is its peculiar adaptation to the repair of old wheels, or that the tire of old wheels may be steered upon this plan, and, when worn, can be easily taken out, and replaced with new, from time to time, as long as the general fabric of the wheel is sufficiently firm for use. The great value will be manifest, when it is borne in mind, that the same wheels may be renewed with fresh steel, as often as worn out, at a trifling expense, compared with new wheels.

It may be observed, that, heretofore, it has been found, in railway practice, many wheels have failed before the tires were half worn out, through the spokes coming loose in the nave; this defect and loss, however, will be prevented by the application of the other part of Mr. Banks's patent, which consists in welding, or otherwise attaching the arms, or spokes, to a ring, previously to casting the boss around the ends of such arms and rings, thereby giving the greatest possible strength and durability to the wheels. It is stated that there are, at least, 40,000 sets of railway wheels now at work in this country, which have cost not less than 1,000,000*l.*, if we, then, allow as much as five years for the durability of the wheels now in use, the application of Mr. Banks's patent generally will more than double the durability—thus causing a saving to the shareholders of this kingdom of at least 200,000*l.* per annum.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SMOKE NUISANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—Observing in your valuable Journal a good deal of controversy between several gentlemen as to the merits of different schemes for preventing smoke, I have been induced to pay some little attention to the subject, but more particularly a few days since, when staying in Lancaster, where I had the opportunity and gratification of inspecting a very simple yet effective mode, adopted by Messrs. Satterthwaite and Barrow, at their cotton-works, Queen's Mill, Lancaster, for the consumption of smoke without any addition of air or steam more than is used in ordinary furnaces. I was informed that it also effected a considerable saving of fuel—as formerly it required about twenty-nine tons per week of the best slack from my collieries to keep up the steam required by the engine, but since the introduction of the alteration twenty-two tons per week generates as much steam as twenty-nine did previously.

To explain the subject more fully, fig. 1 in the enclosed sketch represents the common boiler and furnace as it was before the alteration; fig. 2 is the boiler and furnace as it now is, with the alteration for consuming smoke.

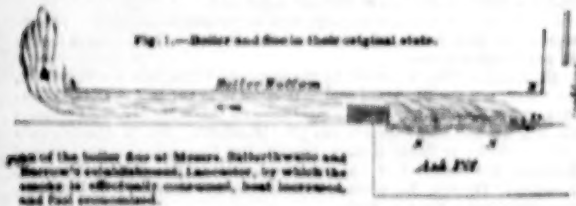


Fig. 1.—Boiler and furnace, in their original state.



Fig. 2.—Boiler and furnace, with improvements.

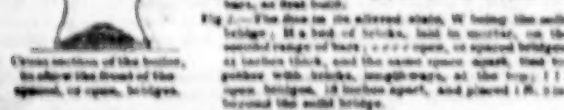


Fig. 3.—Boiler and furnace, with improvements.

On reference you will perceive by the section, fig. 1, that there are two lengths of smoke-back, each being four feet three inches long, and marked a, b; in fig. 2 it will be seen that the smoke-backs are also marked a, b; it will further be seen that the set a, b is covered over with two bricks, so as to prevent the air getting in, and that upon this brickwork, H, there are four bridges, c, c, c, c, erected so as to touch the boiler bottom at the sides, yet leaving a small space between the top of the bridge and the centre of the bottom of the boiler. These four bridges are a brick's breadth, or four and a half inches in thickness, with four and a half inches of space between each bridge; each bridge is half full of holes four and a half inches wide, as indicated in the cross section, K. Besides this series of open bridges placed before the solid bridge, W, there is another series of three placed one foot nine inches beyond the bridge W, and intended L, L; these are also open.

This arrangement constitutes all that is necessary for the ignition and destruction of the smoke, which is effected, as will be seen on reference to fig. 2, in the most simple manner, thus:—The coal or slack being ignited on the grate, the flame and smoke are impelled by the draft over and through the four first open bridges, which, soon becoming red hot, carbonize the smoke which is collected and retained in the progress by them; escaped from these first obstructions, it crosses the solid bridge, W, and is again retained in a like process while endeavoring to pass the remaining open bridges, L, L, by which an obstructions is destroyed, that nothing remains to pass through the first hot obstructions and other chemical vapors. It is of course to be borne in mind that for a very short time at first lighting the time, and until the bridges are heated, there will be a small escape of smoke; but after that, the smoke being regularly collected from the bridges, it comes altogether into the furnace where being kept closed.

Should you deem the above notice and diagrams worthy of public observation, I shall, as a subscriber to your Journal, feel obliged by their insertion. In the future I have nothing to add, more than that it is economical, in its operation, and fully answers every wish and expectation as to the saving of fuel and the getting rid of nuisance of smothering smoke.

Messrs. Satterthwaite and Barrow will allow any gentleman to see their furnace in operation.

JOHN DARLINGTON.

Railway Colliery, near Chorley, Lancashire, April 21.
[This subject, although nearly worn out, possesses so much interest, more especially where any improvement is suggested, that we most readily afford space to the communication of our correspondent.]

COMBUSTION OF SMOKE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—I have long diligently perused the columns of your valuable Journal, particularly during the animated discussion of the scientific interested individuals, thinking to get some information with respect to the combustion of smoke, and consequent consumption of fuel; but for anything that has been elicited I confess I am just as ignorant as when it began; therefore, Mr. Editor, if I be not intruding too much on your columns, you will do me a particular favour by inserting the following queries to those who advocate the admission of air at or behind the bridge, as it may tend to enlighten me and dispel my ignorance, and likewise satisfy the doubts of a great many individuals who might be willing to adopt their plans, could they only see through the mystery plainly. I am told by the "smoke doctors" that they have practically and chemically taken it into consideration; therefore I, with your permission, will ask them:—

First.—Can any of them let me know, practically, how many cubic feet of atmospheric air passes through the incandescent fuel on the grate of a furnace on the old construction (that is, a non-smoke burner or smoke preventer), and how many cubic feet ought to pass during the combustion of a ton of bituminous coal?—as I am one of those who believe that enough of air passes through the fuel for complete combustion of all the gases, if the furnace be properly fired and flues properly constructed.

Secondly.—Will they do me the favour, chemically, to let me know how many cubic feet of aerial products of combustion pass off from a furnace of the old construction during the combustion of a ton of bituminous coal, and how many cubic feet ought to pass when combustion is complete?—as, so far as I know, or have heard, chemistry admits of no change; its laws are fixed and definite; therefore, the admission of an undefined quantity of air behind the bridge must be an absurdity, where the quantity deficient is not known; and, until the quantity deficient is known, smoke burning or preventing, by the admission of an indefinite quantity of hot or cold air is a fallacy, and in nine cases out of ten a failure.

Lastly.—Will they be kind enough to inform me by what data or instrument they find the quantity of aerial products of the combustion of a ton of bituminous coal?—as a satisfactory answer to these queries may go far to dispel the doubts of a great many of the owners of smoky chimneys, and others concerned in the smoke nuisance; further, I am afraid, from what I have lately seen, that firemen require to learn to fire for smoke burning, as well as for non-smoke burning—from which, I suspect, the fireman is the best smoke burner; and, consequently, the greatest saver of fuel, as I always found it in practice.

T. SMITH.

Birkenhead, April 24.

We doubt not that Mr. C. W. Williams, Mr. S. Hall, or other parties, who have taken so warm an interest in the subject, will reply to our correspondent. Where is Mr. Chanter?—Echo answers, where?

CARN BREA MINES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—Your strictures in your Journal of 22d inst. appear somewhat inconsistent with the silence which you have so long observed, and which you gave us to understand, in an article written some time since, should continue until the committee of investigation should have made their report.

I, for one, can only regret that you did not strictly adhere to that intention; for, by anticipating the report of the committee, you not only do an injustice to parties, but render their duties of a far more irksome nature than those imposed on them by the circumstances of the case. I regret, in common with you, that the report should not have been rendered ere this, but when you consider that the gentlemen appointed reside in various districts, and that they have other vocations which call upon their time, I think that those very circumstances palliate the apparent lengthened delay; and, moreover, from a knowledge of the parties, I feel satisfied that it is their anxious desire well to consider their report, and not, as in many instances, which I could name, bring forward a crude production, which would neither be beneficial to the interests of the adventurers, honest towards the accused, or creditable to themselves. With respect to the proposed meeting of the 9th of May, I think if you inquire in the proper quarter, you will learn that such will, in all probability, be adjourned. I feel confident that I am only expressing the opinions of all interested, that the committee is formed of men of too honourable minds to wish unnecessary delay to take place, or to allow their opinions to be warped by prejudice, or unfounded assertion. The reinstatement of Capt. Joseph Lyle by the committee of management you will find calculated to be productive of benefit to the concern, for these gentlemen can have but one object. You will remember that in this, as in other matters, there are two sides of the question, and that "one story is good until the other is told."

AN OUT-ADVENTURER.

London, April 26.

[The letter of our correspondent is temperate, and, as such, well deserving attention. As to the reinstatement of Capt. Joseph Lyle, such may be, at least, allowed as matter of opinion.]

THE AERIAL STREAM-CARRIAGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—The first note appended to my communication in the last number of your Journal has induced me again to address you on this subject.

I did not in my letter refer to any *known* improvements, as your note seems to imply, nor am I prepared to suggest any. I merely surmised that they would be consequent on the partial success of this invention. I never heard of any new discovery in mechanics being brought to perfection on its first outset; it is generally by slow degrees and long experience that it is attained; and I am quite satisfied that any important modifications or improvements in Mr. Henson's machine will be perfected by time and experience alone. The principle of the aerial carriage is somewhat similar to that of the well known Australian homing, which, being thrown into the air in an horizontal direction, has the singular property of returning, when the propelling power is expended, with a retrograde motion far behind the thrower; could this force be generated in the instrument it would continue to progress in the air as long as the force was applied, it having no tendency to fall to the earth in a perpendicular direction. I can see no reason to adopt Mr. Dushward's rule, that "it is naturally impossible to continue the flight of a projectile." The only difficulty to be overcome is to produce a propelling power in the machine itself, and this is to be accomplished in Mr. Henson's design by the vanes or propellers. It only remains, therefore, to be proved whether an adequate force can be produced by these means to enable the machine to ascend and continue its flight through the air.

T. D. S.

April 25.

[We like this discussion, but should be better pleased with a practical illustration. We have to thank "T. D. S.," and court further information.]

FIRE DAMPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—I cannot report my astonishment at the extraordinary verdict returned by the jury in the recent catastrophe near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and believe I only share in the surprise of thousands. In the face of such evidence, such a verdict is altogether unaccountable, except on the supposition of some strange underground influence being at work—"something more than meets the eye." I fear, too, Sir, in the present state of things, matters will continue on, and the sacrifice of human life pass unheeded, as it should. Some time ago, I proposed a very simple method of extinguishing the "fire damp" in coal mines, by means of Henson's voltaic battery. It appeared in the *Times* newspaper, as well as the *Manchester Observer*, and I believe you did use the device to insert the proposed plan in the *Mining Journal*. Now, Sir, the mine where the accident in question occurred is an illustration in point. By the same proposed, that mine might have been effectually cleared of "fire damp," and twenty-seven human beings preserved alive!—"Could you save one soul?"

However, I was attacked by an anonymous correspondent in the *Manchester Observer*, as if I had proposed the plan for an extraneous reason. Exceptions only establish the rule, and the rule remains intact. The efficacy and safety of the plan I proposed is unaccountably illustrated by an appeal to a case in point. Compare my proposal with the rule and questionable method propounded by Mr. Seaton, of Old Ford, in No. 248 of the *Illustration*—"Look on this picture, and on that."

April 25.

J. MURRAY.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—Your truly valuable Journal has ever been open to the suggestions of individuals for preventing accidents in mines from foul and explosive gases, and many and various are the plans that have, from time to time, been proposed; but of what avail, Sir, are these suggestions—of what utility are the labours of scientific men—if those who superintend the working of mines are incapacitated by ignorant hardness of disposition, from want of education, or from want of humanity, from taking those necessary precautions, without which human ingenuity will avail them nothing. In the recent melancholy catastrophe, reported in your Journal of last week, there appears to be gross and culpable neglect of those common precautions necessary to insure safety to the men; the lamps were declared to be defective from the very beginning of the working, and the only man among the many who could be found discreet enough to know—and, therefore, to shun—the threatened danger, in the place of being rewarded, as he ought to have been, for giving timely warning, was sulced of a portion of his small and well-merited earnings. Habitual, no doubt, makes the miner reckless and indifferent to the dangers constantly surrounding him, but this makes it the more necessary that well-educated and humane men should superintend their operations, awaken their minds to threatening dangers, and enforce those rules generally laid down for the prevention of accidents. Almost all the accidents produced by exploding gases originate in men being permitted to use candles, or from their rashly exposing the flame of the lamp; and, in the melancholy case before us, many wives have been in one moment bereft of their husbands, children of their fathers, because the mine was not properly supplied with lamps, candles being resorted to as a necessary consequence. I trust that—may the opinions of your practical mining correspondent, Mr. Deakin—the schoolmaster will find his way into the mines, and that he will teach these men, that, however little value they may attach to their own lives, or to the lives of those working with them, they have still duties which bind them to the earth as citizens, husbands, and fathers; moral duties, which, as Christians, they are bound to fulfil, and which teach them to avoid all unnecessary risk of being hurried into eternity. M. P. V.

Richmond, April 24.

VENTILATION OF MINES—PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. J. Murray, tells us, in your last week's Journal, that choke damp, black damp, and after damp, of the mines, is carbonic acid gas of modern chemistry; it is (he says) sometimes developed naturally in mines, and is the inevitable product of an explosion of fire damp. As regards the choke, or black damp (for I know not how to separate the one from the other), nothing can be more erroneous, for that damp will not fire at all, nor will any fire burn in it; the reason is, it is generated in confined places, where no draft of atmospheric air can penetrate to it, and no person ought to go into it, where a candle will not burn. The fire damp will know to be another thing; it is a gas produced in the earth in coal mines, more especially, but often in ironstone mines also; a candle burns freely in the quick gas of a coal mine, and gas, whilst in a quick state, rises to the roof of the mine, because it is lighter than common air, but after an explosion, and the gas is burned, it becomes heavier than common air, and falls on the bottom of the mine, and is destructive to human life. Hence so many lives have been lost by explosions in mines that have not been burned at all. When a heavy fire takes place in a mine, the workmen that happen to be inside the gas after it is burned, and the draft of air going through the burned gas towards them, and they have no way of escape through the air way before it, their doom is generally sealed, but those that are on the other side the burnt gas (that is, to windward of it) have every chance for escaping. I was witness of a case in point; it was in a pit where all the workmen had left work, and gone out of the pit, except three little boys, and one of those boys fired the gas in the pit, and a most dreadful explosion was the consequence; it shook the neighbouring towns, and the report was heard to a great distance round the top of the pit. The whole of the horses in the pit were burnt to death, and no one supposed but that the little fellows had lost their lives too. Now, the case was this: the pit the boys were in was the upcast pit, and they fired the gas at the inner end of it—therefore, when the explosion took place, the fire was carried with the draft from thence towards the pit shaft; the boys were left without light, and many hundreds of yards of burnt gas between them and the pit bottom, which, to attempt to go through, they knew would be certain death. They had a very intricate air way more than a mile in length, that led to the downcast pit, and the boys having no light, made it much more difficult for them to find their way; other old ways and old workings led out of the air way, but, when they were at a loss which way to take, they made it a point to all stand together, and pray the way the draft came towards them strongest, and invariably followed the strongest draft, and between five and six hours after the explosion the boys came out safe, and such was the effect of that explosion that the pit was under the necessity of being stopped up, to smother the fire stink, for many months; and, when it was opened again, I saw the putrid carcasses of the horses got out, and the pit was loathsome to work in for a length of time after. The reason why I relate this story is, to show the necessity of keeping the air ways perfect in a fiery mine, because they are the only safe dependence to such a coal mine, when the miner can go in at one pit and out at another at any time. If an explosion should take place, it gives him a chance for his life, and such air ways are the best preventatives against having very large explosions at all.

But, to Mr. Murray again. He says, in the former case—I suppose he means the black, or choke damp—were it allowed to flow along a channel provided for it, which it would do (says he), in virtue of its superior specific gravity, into a tank, and it might be easily pumped out like water by an engine. Now, can Mr. Murray be serious, when he talks of black damp running in a gutter, and being pumped out like water. Can he suppose that we miners are actually more ignorant than even the schoolmen are in the habit of representing us to be? No, no, Mr. Murray, not get rid of black damp that way; it must be taken from the mine the same as the fire damp, by good ventilation. Then Mr. Murray says, cold water should be forced by a small forcing pump, through a rose, by individuals, in their approach to men that are smothered in burnt gas, or, as he calls it, after damp. Where is the man that one time out of fifty could live to approach them in time to save their lives, after such explosions as coal mines are subject to; and, I think, upon reflection, Mr. Murray must be aware, that dead men cannot pump water any more than they can tell tales.

Mr. Editor, the *Stromont Main Colliery* explosion is a melancholy affair. I shall not make any comments; you have said enough on the subject in the last week's Journal. The man that went out of the pit when he saw danger ahead wisely, and I would advise every coal miner to do the same. The miner should always tell his overkeeper something like the following—I shall expect you to make me a compensative safe place from fire damp to work in, or I must go out of the pit.

THOMAS DEAKIN.

Barnes, April 21.

THE THAMES TUNNEL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—In common with every one who has walked under the Thames, I have admired the skill and perseverance which has led to the completion of so noble a work as the tunnel. It cannot, however, be a matter of indifference to its numerous visitors and passengers, that some efficient means of ventilation should be adopted, the heat and closeness of the atmosphere being painfully oppressive. It only requires that the attention of its highly-talented engineer, Mr. M. I. Henson, should be directed to the existence of such an evil, to insure the application of its remedy, and provide a comfortable, as well as a safe and economical, communication.

MIRIAM.

Brixton, April 27.

"DUFF" OR SMALL COAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR,—Reference having been made by you to a method lately discovered of rendering "duff," or small coal, available for combustion as fuel, I beg to state that it has for some weeks been known to several of my friends, that I have been enabled to make a very lively and agreeable fire of duff coal in my own house—hence I conjecture that this discovery has been hinted at to you by some of your friends. It may be expedient to mention that several years ago I performed a series of expensive experiments upon this subject, and accomplished that which was by many persons considered as a desideratum—the utilizing of duff, or coal, when I calculated the expense! I found (as our neighbours have it) that "the game was not worth the candle," or, in other words, the expense was so considerable, that the profit would thereby be absorbed. Reflecting that the duff is formed of the poorest part of the coal, taken from the best coal mine, it struck me that if I could render common strong brown paper, to a certain degree, combustible, I might, within a small ready-made dry bag of this description, include a portion of the duff coal, which, when placed upon a ready-made fire, would become ignited, and in that process, give out gradually a clear flame, and be kept up for any length of time. For this purpose I used saturated solutions of a variety of salts, and having, with much solicitude, carefully watched brown paper, and having it afterwards carefully dried, I submitted the duff to trial in pursuance of the agency of each paper. I need not detail the results for the same reason that I mentioned it unnecessary to detail the processes by which the duff was subjected, more especially as such processes are of no value, compared to the successful plan which I ultimately adopted. I found that the common mixture of soda and sulphate of soda (or carbonate of soda) answered the purpose admirably, and which I employed in the following manner:—Dissolve one ounce of the above-named salt in twenty ounces of com-

[illegible]

